

Regular Meeting of the Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks
Held at the Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Minutes
January 4, 2006

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mene called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members present were Joyce Berg, Kathy Chandler, Gerard Mene, and Charley O'Hara. Staff present was Howard Herman, Director of Recreation and Parks and Linda Weikle, Senior Administrative Assistant.

2. Receipt of Public Petitions and Board Member Petitions

Mr. Mene asked if there were any petitions from the public or board members. There were none.

3. Minutes

Mr. O'Hara moved to approve the Dec. 7, 2005 minutes with the following correction: Under Minutes, change the vote from 4-1 to 4-0-1 to accurately reflect the abstention. Ms. Chandler seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Herman reported:

- A new program supervisor for classes and special events will start January 9. Staffing has been challenging over the last two to three years with several vacancies and individuals using family medical leave. There was some difficulty during the holiday weeks with staff shortages due to vacations, family leave and illnesses.
- The City Council reviewed the City/School MOU last night and made some editorial comments. The editorial changes will be shared with school staff, then the MOU will be available for public comment, and then the City Manager and the School Superintendent will take administrative action.
- Watch Night was well attended. Mr. Herman believes more funds from some source are needed to make this event a really quality event. The Middle School Dance at the Community Center had 100 kids in attendance.
- Basketball games started yesterday. Staff will tour the MEHMS gym tomorrow to review logistics for use. Using the MEHMS gym will now free the Community Center gym for open play on Sundays.
- Staff continues to work on the contract for synthetic turf.

5. New Business

a. Healthy Habitat Designation of City Parks

Mr. Herman distributed a request by the City's Environmental Services Council to designate five parks as Healthy Habitats. Mr. O'Hara moved to have staff apply for Healthy Habitat designation for the five parks; Ms. Chandler seconded the motion. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed.

b. Berman Park Master Plan Public Hearing

Mr. Herman distributed information from the City's Department of Environmental Services indicating that daylighting for Berman Park was not a high priority. He will use the same language for daylighting in the Conceptual Plan that was used for other Park Master Plans. No citizens attended the public hearing.

The following comments were submitted in writing:

Jane McMullen, 237 Irving St., said that the park is popular with dog walkers, neighborhood youth, and Boy Scouts playing football. She would like to see the character of the park preserved, and that less is more. She noted that the path needs resurfacing.

Diane P. McQuail, 802 Parker Ave., noted that drainage has become non-existent in the park and requested that something be done to correct it. After a rain, there is standing water in the park and her yard.

6. Old Business

a. Budget

Mr. Herman said the departments have been given guidance of a four percent increase for FY07. The division budget is due to the General Manager next Tuesday and to the City Manager Jan. 17. Mr. Herman presented the CIP requests to the Planning Commission last night and received a favorable response.

b. Hamlett Property

The purchase of the property continues to move forward.

c. School/City MOU

Mr. Herman gave an update under the Recreation Director's Report.

7. Other Business

Mr. Mene noted that there was a strong gas smell near the parking lot at Madison Park and that there are some lights in the parking lot and park that are burned out

8. Adjournment

Mr. O'Hara moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Following a unanimous voice vote, Mr. Mene adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

(Approved Feb. 1, 2006)